

Santa Fe Weekly Gazette.

Independent in all things—Neutral in nothing.

W. W. H. DAVIS, Editor.

SATURDAY, APRIL 28, 1855.

NEWS FROM THE SEAT OF WAR. OPERATIONS IN THE UTAH COUNTRY.

We have been permitted, through the kindness of Capt. Sturgis, Aetg. Aet. Adj. General, to look at the reports of Col. Fountleroy, giving an account of the operations in the Utah country. He left Fort Massachusetts on the 13th of March, with a force of regulars and volunteers, of about five hundred men, marching up the Del Norte, to the Cañon. Here they struck the trail of the stock taken a short time before from the Conejos, which they followed to the Conejos Pass, where they arrived on the 19th of March. As the troops entered the pass the Indians were seen about a mile and a half in advance, drawn up in line, and making demonstrations for battle. The troops charged them, when they fled to the mountains; the soldiers dismounted and pursued them among the rocks and cedar trees that covered the mountains. A running fight, for about an hour, took place, when the Indians fled, and were seen no more at that point. They numbered, in all, about two hundred warriors, and lost some six or eight killed, two taken prisoners, and ten horses. They were composed of Utahs and Apaches, and were commanded by Huero and Blanco. Our loss was two dragoons wounded. The troops resumed their march on the 20th, inaccessible parts of the mountains, and the next day reached the Punche Pass. On the morning of the 22nd as the troops were coming out the pass at the opposite side of the mountain, these Indians were seen some distance ahead, who were pursued, and one was killed and one captured. The trail of the Indians was now followed down the Arkansas to Beaver Creek, up which they had turned, and encamped about three miles from the river. About fifteen miles above this point the trail divided into three, but the troops continued on the largest, following it over hills, and through valleys, until just before reaching a Cañon that led to the Arkansas, a large party of Indians were seen on the river. The troops dashed at them, but before they could be overtaken, they had crossed the river and ascended the mountains on the opposite side. The troops crossed the river, dismounted and pursued them about two miles, and succeeded in wounding one Indian, and captured about thirty animals. This party was commanded by Chacon. The troops encamped near this place, and learning from a squaw captured, that a party of Indians were near by, fifty men were sent out in the night to surprise them; but the enemy had fled leaving five animals, which were taken. Thence the troops marched to the Wet mountain valley. On the 24th the spies met three Indians, one of whom they killed. The troops encountered, the night of the 25th at the head of the Wet mountain valley, where they encountered a furious snow storm, which continued three days; the snow fell to the depth of from three to four feet, and the command could not see fifty yards before them. In this storm they marched to the Huero Pass, and thence to Fort Massachusetts, where they arrived on the 28th ultimo.

Although but few of the enemy, during this expedition, were killed, yet it was not without good results, inasmuch as the Indians were taught that they could be pursued and overtaken in their strong holds, and are nowhere safe from the attack of the troops. We understand that the volunteers behaved well during the march and skirmishes, and are well spoken of by the regulars.

The report of Col. Fountleroy, was brought express to Head Quarters by Lt. Magruder, adjutant to the Col. commanding, and who had the satisfaction of capturing an Indian with his own hands after wounding him severely.

LOCAL ITEMS.

To our readers.

We hoped, after the arrival of the April mail, to be able to continue the issue of the Gazette, without any further interruption; but the supply of paper received, was so limited and that all required for the public work we have on hand, that we will again have to suspend the publication of the paper, for a time. We have paper at Las Vegas, and will again issue as soon as we can get it from that place. We regret these interruptions, but under the circumstances they cannot be avoided. Our subscribers will lose nothing, however, as they will receive the whole fifty two numbers for the year.

Death of Maj. Dusenbury U. S. Army.

We regret to announce to our readers the death of Major Dusenbury, Commissary of Subsistence U. S. Army, who died in this city Wednesday 4th instant, after an illness of several weeks. He was buried in the cemetery of the Odd Fellows, Friday the 6th inst. with the honors of war, being followed to the grave by a large concourse of our citizens.

Lynch Law in Dona Ana county.—Four men hung.

We learn, by a letter, from the United States Marshal, that towards the last of March four men were hung in Dona Ana, by a party of citizens, for robbery. The facts, as far as we have been able to gather them, are as follows. Mr. Louis Gock, who lives in the town of Dona Ana, has a store in the Mesilla, which was robbed, and the robbers also abused his wife. Four Mexicans were arrested upon suspicion and confined in the county jail, to answer at the term of the United States district court then about to be held. The same night they were confined, however, they were taken from the jail by a party of men, and hung upon a neighboring tree, where they were found the next morning. Such are substantially the facts of the case.

We look upon this affair as a disgrace to the Territory and the age in which we live; and consider the men who perpetrated this outrage, as much guilty of murder as though they had shot the four men down in the public highway. It was a cold blooded and brutal affair, and these self constituted hangmen have stained their hands with human blood which no time can wash out. There is never any excuse for men taking the law into their own hands, and administering justice independently of our civil tribunals; and if the laws are to be set at defiance in this manner, no person in the community is safe, and the lives of our citizens are subject to the caprice and hostility of lawless men. To day a man may be lynched who is, perhaps, guilty of crime; but to-morrow the victim may be some one who is innocent, but has fallen under the displeasure of a personal enemy. There is no safety except in the laws; and those who violate them, as in this instance, are unworthy to live in a civilized community, and had better take themselves to the savage Indians, whose barbarities they imitate. We would like to find some excuse for this violation of the law, if possible, but we cannot see a shade of palliation. The men who committed the robbery were duly arrested and in the hands of the law, and in a few days could have been brought before the proper tribunal for trial; hence there can be no excuse set up that justice could not be obtained, and they were obliged to become midnight executioners in self defence.

When will this setting the laws at defiance, cease in New Mexico? Within less than eighteen months, five men have been taken from the custody of the officers of the law, and executed in the States judge us by our acts, we will be considered no better than a community of outlaws and cut-throats, and be shunned by all honest and law loving men. How can we expect settlers to come among a people who disregard the law, and hang men up without judge or jury? No sensible man could like to risk his neck in such a community. We hope Judge Bonadict, will cause this affair, in Dona Ana, to be thoroughly examined into, and, if possible, have the offenders brought to justice. It will be a disgrace to the Territory if they go unpunished.

More Indian depredations.

About the eighth of this month, a party of Utah Indians, some twenty five in number, made their appearance among the settlements on the Puerco river. They attacked a ranch, killed two men and wounded three, who made their escape. They then passed up the river, and considerable firing was heard in the direction they went, but we have not learned the cause or result of it. A few days previous to this, a party of Indians, supposed to be Utahs, made a descent upon Vallecito, above Abiquia, and ran of some cattle, but we did not hear whether they committed any further depredations.

Expedition into the Mesalero country. Safe arrival of the troops. Description of the country.

We mentioned, some time ago, that General Garland was about sending an expedition into the Mesalero country, to establish a military post on the river Bonito. We now learn of the safe arrival of Major Carleton's command at that point, where he was in daily expectation of being joined by the balance of the troops under Col. Miles. We have been allowed to peruse a private letter from Major C. dated "camp, one mile below the junction of the Bonito and Ruidoso rivers, April 11, 1855," from which we publish the following interesting paragraphs, descriptive of the country &c. "The beauty and fertility of this country have not been exaggerated. The geological formation is sandstone underneath and limestone above. The hills, which are some four or five hundred feet high, are nearly all of limestone, well rounded off, generally destitute of shrubbery, and well grassed to their summits. The timber along the river is black walnut, box elder, hackberry, and small Mesquite bushes; not very plentiful at that. Back from the river some four or five miles from this point, the hills are said to be covered with piñon and cedar sufficient for fuel when the timber along the river shall be exhausted. Building timber would have to be hauled from fifteen to twenty miles, at a rough guess. From appearances, I should judge the timber to become scarce, as you descend towards the Pecos. I have been nine miles below this point. The valley is rich and fit for cultivation all the way. And hence upwards towards the White mountains, where both the Bonito and Ruidoso have their sources, the Bonito river bottom is very rich, at least for more than twenty miles which I have examined."

Major Carleton opened a wagon road from Albuquerque all the way to the Bonito, which is said to be one of the best roads in the Territory. The distance between these two points, as measured with a diameter, is 176 miles and 1267 yards. We consider the opening of the Bonito country as a fortunate thing to the Territory. This region is fertile and of large extent, and as there is every reason to expect peace, for the future, with the Mesaleros, we hope soon to see settlers flocking to that section of the country, with their flocks and herds, for permanent location, to see them open farms and build villages.

Since we wrote the above, the following letter, from Major Carleton to a citizen at Albuquerque, has been placed in our hand for publication. It is further descriptive of the country and will be read with interest.

Camp on the Rio Bonito, one mile, 600 yds. below its junction with the Ruidoso. April 11th 1855.

Dear Sir:

"I arrived here with my command yesterday

the 10th in as good condition, in every particular, and as ready for a contest with the Indians, as when we left Albuquerque.

I enclose a table of distances to which please give publicity, for the information of those who may desire to pass over the route. You will observe this place will not be as far from Albuquerque as is Fort Defiance; and let me assure you, there is not in New Mexico, for the same distance, so fine a route for a wagon road, as the one over which we have passed. There is not one bad hill on the route nor a turn that could give inconvenience to a twenty mule team.

I made ford, for crossing the Rio Bonito six times, and Frasier will tell you that they are made so that his train of large waggons can pass over them as upon a road. They are dug down and well filled with stone, so as to have an easy descent and ascent, and must remain forever, and will possess the important advantage over bridges, that they cannot be burnt by the Indians.

Too much has not been said of the beauty and fertility of this country. This and the Pecos Valley are bound to form the garden of New Mexico. You can form no idea of how rich a trout is to drink this sweet clear water, the finest in the world. The river is filled with fish and beaver, and the country abounds in game. As yet I have killed one deer, a black tailed buck, and one turkey. Blas Lucero chased and caught with a lasso a gobbler that weighed 25 pounds.

The bottom lands are composed of vegetable mould, and of soil made up from decomposed limestone, the principal rock of the country, and are, therefore, how rich they are on or near the river, although enough may be got for fire wood, I suppose from what I have seen and heard, that timber for building can be got within, say 15 miles, up the river from this point it becomes more and more abundant until you reach the White Mountains, whence the river descends, where you find nothing else. The hills are covered, to their summits, with the finest grass in the world, and the country unsurpassed for the rearing of flocks. "Bar" is plentiful. And although the country had been recently filled with Indians, we have seen of sign that seems to be later than four days ago. At one place, six miles above the junction of the rivers, in the bottom, is where they planted corn, say two years ago; it is called the "Apache Farm." It is irrigated entirely by the water from a formidable spring which comes out of the bluffs, and runs along through the farm; the water is clear as crystal and filled with cress.

Arrival of the Independence mail.

The mail from Independence Mo., arrived in Santa Fe, last Monday the twenty third, having made the trip in nineteen days. There came but one passenger Mr. Edgar. The mail was unusually large, and brought dates, from St. Louis, as late as the 30th of March, and from New York down to the middle of the month. There was no news of importance in the United States; and the most stirring news from Europe is the death of the Emperor Nicholas of Russia. His son Alexander quietly assumed the reigns of the government. There had been some fighting around Sebastopol, but the aspect of the war was not materially changed. The English cabinet had again dissolved, and the opposition to the war was increasing.

The Congress of the United States adjourned the 4th of March. Before the adjournment, the President nominated, to the Senate, the officers for the new regiments, all of whom were confirmed. Among those raised to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, was Lt. Sturgis of the first dragoons, now stationed in this city; he is promoted to one of the new cavalry regiments, and stands five in the list of Captains. We congratulate Lt. Sturgis upon his promotion, and are confident there is not an officer in the army will sustain his commission with more credit to the government and honor to himself. His promotion is gazetted for his gallant affair with the Mesalero Indians in January. It was well merited.

Man sentenced to be hung.

We understand a man was convicted, at the last term of the U. S. district court, at Albuquerque of murder in the first degree, and sentenced to be hung on the 18th day of May. Another was convicted of manslaughter, and sentenced to confinement in the penitentiary for the term of ten years.

We would say to our friend, the Editor of the *Columbia Democrat*, that we have had his paper upon our exchange list about a year, and send him the Gazette regularly. This will inform him, "by whom sent."

Return of Mr. Quinn and party.

We learn that Mr. Quinn and party, who started to California in February with a drove of near fifteen thousand sheep, have returned to Taos. They were turned back by the Indians, who forbade them passing their country. They lost about two thousand sheep in all, some having been stolen by the Indians and others died on the way.

Increased mail accommodations to New Mexico.

We understand that, hereafter, we will have a semimonthly mail between Independence Mo. and Santa Fe. The Independence papers state that a mail would leave that city for this place on the 15th of April, which should arrive here about the 7th of May. The new arrangement contemplates that a mail shall leave each end of the line the first and fifteenth of every month, coming through in about the same time they now make the trip. This will be an accommodation to our people, and we are under

obligations to the P. O. Department for giving us these increased mail facilities. We are also pleased that the wishes of Messrs. Hookaday & Hall, have been complied with, and their contract increased.

By express we learn that Hon. Judge Brochus has given notice that he will hold a special term of the U. S. district court for the trial of criminal cases in the county of Taos at Don Fernandez, commencing on the third Monday in May, by sanction, for special reasons.

Table of distance to the Bonito.

We are indebted to Major Carleton for the following table of distances to the junction of the Bonito and Ruidoso, where Fort Stanton is to be built.

| DISTANCE FROM ALBUQUERQUE TO THE JUNCTION OF THE RIO DEL VALLE, N. M., BY MRS. CARTERSON'S WAGON ROUTE, MEASURED WITH A STADIOMETER, MAY AND APRIL, 1885. | | | | | |
|--|--------|--------|---------------------|----------------|------------------------------|
| FROM ALBUQUERQUE | Miles. | Yards. | From Albuquerque | From Biotic | REMARKS. |
| To Terlingua | 18 | 144 | 1,548 | 103 | Wool and water-grass scarce. |
| Comely's Saw Pit | 24 | 148 | 1,413 | 117 | Wool and water-grass scarce. |
| Camp in Dog Cañon | 38 | 292 | 32,150 | 143 | Wool, fern and grass. |
| Chillico | 6 | 717 | 30 | 637 | Wool, fern and grass. |
| Terlingua | 11 | 220 | 30 | 857 | Wool, fern and grass. |
| Corrison | 16 | 51 | 617 | 110 | Wool, fern and grass. |
| Corrison and Arroyo | 10 | 50 | 1,158 | 113 | Wool, fern and grass. |
| Las Animas | 21 | 923 | 98 | 610 | Wool, fern and grass. |
| Las Animas Mountains | 21 | 923 | 98 | 610 | Wool, fern and grass. |
| South side do. | 6 | 991 | 101 | 1031 | Water-grass and wool. |
| Tecolote Hills | 21 | 698 | 120 | 559 | Grass 1 wool. |
| Arroyo Springs | 14 | 528 | 101 | 1087 | Wool, fern and grass. |
| Las Animas | 16 | 1,058 | 101 | 1,159 | Wool, fern and grass. |
| Pass Cañon | 16 | 1,181 | 1,097 | 271 | Wool 1 grass. |
| Rio Bonito | 12 | 630 | 101 | 517 | Wool, fern and grass. |
| Junction of Rio Riohondo and Bonito | 15 | 750 | 176 | 1,397 | Wool, fern and grass. |